



Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

URN: 151364

Catholic Schools Inspectorate report on behalf of the Bishop of Salford

30 September 2026 – 01 October 2026

Summary of key findings

Overall effectiveness

The overall quality of Catholic education provided by the school

Catholic life and mission (p.3)

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission

Religious education (p.5)

The quality of curriculum religious education

Collective worship (p.7)

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school

The school is fully compliant with the general norms for religious education laid down by the Bishops' Conference

The school is fully compliant with diocesan directives

The school has responded to the areas for improvement from the last inspection

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Yes

Yes

Fully

What the school does well

- The inspirational leadership of the headteacher and other senior leaders demonstrate a strong commitment and ambition to ensuring this is the most successful, loving and aspirational school.
- Behaviour is exemplary across school; pupils and staff are respectful, kind and caring to one another.
- Pupils are enthusiastic about religious education, developing their own knowledge and understanding, and what this means to them in the wider world beyond school.
- Space has been well developed both in and out of the school to reflect and celebrate its unique identity.
- The links with the parish as well as the highly effective governing body ensure leaders are well supported to carry out the mission of the church.

What the school needs to improve

- Embed the new curriculum, developing confidence of staff to use resources imaginatively and creatively to deepen pupils' thinking further.
- Subject leaders to work with all staff to make explicit links between the identity of the school, their subjects and the theology of Catholic social teaching to enable pupils to speak articulately about the impact of scripture on their learning and lives.

Catholic life and mission

How faithfully the school responds to the call to live as a Catholic community at the service of the Church's educational mission.

Catholic life and mission key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

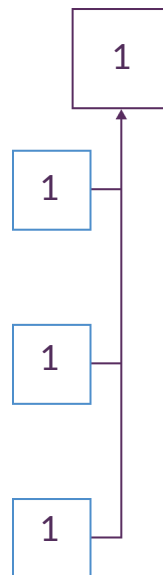
The extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic life and mission of the school

Provision

The quality of provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for the Catholic life and mission of the school



Pupils make an exceptional contribution to the Catholic life and mission of the school. They are rightly proud of belonging to this Catholic community and speak confidently about what makes their school distinctive. They understand that being part of a Catholic school means caring for others, showing respect and striving to make a positive difference in the world. Across all age groups, pupils demonstrate a deep appreciation of the values that underpin school life and readily identify Jesus Christ as their role model. Pupils are happy, secure and confident learners who know they are valued as unique individuals. Relationships throughout the school are characterised by mutual respect, kindness and compassion. Behaviour is exemplary and reflects the high expectations established by leaders and embraced by the whole community. Pupils show genuine care for one another and demonstrate respect for those from different backgrounds, cultures and faiths. They understand the importance of serving others and are enthusiastic about opportunities to contribute to school and community life. Members of the Eco Team demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental and community responsibility, speaking enthusiastically about their desire to improve the world around them. Older pupils particularly value leadership opportunities and embrace their responsibilities with maturity and enthusiasm. Through these experiences, pupils develop an understanding of their role as active citizens and recognise their responsibility to contribute positively to society. While pupils demonstrate a secure understanding of supporting those in need, they are not yet consistently able to explain the theological foundations and principles of Catholic social teaching that underpin their actions.

Provision for Catholic life and mission is outstanding. The mission statement exerts a

significant influence on every aspect of school life and is firmly rooted in the word of God. Staff demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the school's mission and consistently go above and beyond in their service to pupils and families. There is a tangible sense of joy, welcome and belonging throughout the school, which is recognised and appreciated by all members of the community. Pastoral provision is a particular strength. Staff know pupils exceptionally well and provide highly effective support for all, particularly those who are vulnerable. Innovative approaches, including soft-start arrangements and nurture provision, ensure that pupils feel safe, valued and supported. As a result, pupils flourish academically, spiritually and emotionally. The school's culture recognises every child as a unique gift from God. The school environment reflects its Catholic identity exceptionally well. Prayer spaces throughout the school, both indoors and outdoors, create opportunities for reflection and spiritual development. A wide range of experiences, including Mass, praying the Rosary, Stay and Pray events, blessing services and leadership opportunities, helps pupils, staff and families to deepen their faith and develop spiritually. Relationships, sex and health education fully meets diocesan requirements and is carefully sequenced to support pupils' ongoing development.

Leadership of Catholic life and mission is inspirational. Leaders place Christ firmly at the centre of all decision-making and are ambitious for the continued development of the school. Despite being a relatively new leadership team, they have established a clear vision that is understood and embraced by the whole community. Their determination to provide the very best Catholic education for every pupil is evident in all aspects of their work. Leaders work effectively with the diocese and demonstrate a strong commitment to collaboration within the parish and wider trust community. The partnership with the parish is flourishing and makes a significant contribution to the faith life of the school. Parents are recognised and supported as the first educators of their children, and leaders provide regular opportunities to strengthen the partnership between home, school and parish. Governors share leaders' ambition and provide effective support and challenge. They understand the priorities of the school and are highly committed to its ongoing development. Leaders also place considerable emphasis on staff wellbeing and professional development. Staff speak positively about the support they receive, and new staff particularly value the induction and formation opportunities available to them. Robust systems for monitoring and evaluation ensure that all stakeholders contribute to the continuous improvement of the school's Catholic life and mission. The next stage of development is to strengthen opportunities for subject leaders to make explicit links between curriculum disciplines, Catholic culture and the theological foundations of Catholic social teaching.

Religious education

The quality of curriculum religious education

Religious education key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

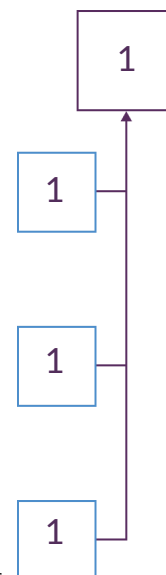
How well pupils achieve and enjoy their learning in religious education

Provision

The quality of teaching, learning, and assessment in religious education

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for religious education



Religious education is at the heart of the curriculum at Our Lady of the Rosary. The school has embraced the *Religious Education Directory* and the implementation of *Lighting the Path* with commitment and enthusiasm. Leaders, staff and pupils share a clear understanding that religious education is central to the school's mission and occupies a privileged place within the curriculum. Pupils achieve exceptionally well and demonstrate highly positive attitudes towards their learning. They approach lessons with enthusiasm, curiosity and a genuine desire to deepen their understanding of faith. Throughout the inspection, pupils engaged purposefully in learning activities, contributed thoughtfully to discussions and demonstrated a strong commitment to their studies. A notable strength is pupils' religious literacy. They use subject-specific vocabulary confidently and demonstrate secure knowledge and understanding across a range of areas of study. Pupils take considerable pride in their work, which is consistently presented to a very high standard. Books reflect high expectations, sustained effort and a commitment to excellence. Behaviour for learning is exemplary. Pupils work independently when appropriate and collaborate effectively with others. They understand how well they are doing and speak confidently about their achievements and progress. Opportunities for deeper thinking are embedded within learning and enable pupils to explore scripture, theology and belief with increasing maturity. Consequently, pupils develop not only secure knowledge but also the ability to reflect critically on matters of faith and meaning.

The quality of teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding. Teachers possess strong subject knowledge and approach religious education with confidence, enthusiasm and commitment. Lessons are carefully planned and sequenced to ensure that pupils build knowledge, understanding and skills progressively. High expectations are consistently evident across the school. Questioning is particularly effective in extending learning and deepening understanding. Teachers use carefully targeted questions to encourage reflection, challenge thinking and engage all pupils. Pupils respond positively to these opportunities and demonstrate increasing confidence when discussing complex religious concepts. The school has implemented *Lighting the Path* effectively and with fidelity. Resources are used thoughtfully and support pupils' engagement and enjoyment. As staff confidence continues to grow, the next step is to develop imaginative and creative adaptations within the curriculum framework to deepen pupils' thinking and enrich their learning. Assessment practices support learning effectively, and pupils value the feedback they receive. The introduction of reflection labels is helping pupils to make meaningful connections between classroom learning and their daily lives. Pupils particularly appreciate opportunities to present their work in different ways, which increases participation and enables them to express their understanding creatively.

Leadership of religious education is highly effective. Leaders have established a clear vision for excellence that reflects both the *Religious Education Directory* and the mission of the school. Their commitment to providing the highest quality religious education is evident in curriculum design, professional development and ongoing monitoring. The implementation of *Lighting the Path* demonstrates the school's wholehearted commitment to the *Religious Education Directory*. Leaders recognise that implementation is at an early stage and have appropriately identified the next phase of development as increasing staff confidence and creativity within the curriculum framework. This reflective and ambitious approach ensures that improvement is continuous and purposeful. Professional development is a significant strength. Leaders have invested in ongoing training and support, which has increased teachers' confidence and strengthened classroom practice. Collaboration with colleagues across the parish and trust further enriches provision and contributes to continuous improvement. Adaptations for pupils with additional needs ensure that they can access and participate fully in learning. Religious education is regarded by pupils as the 'core of the core', demonstrating the success of leaders in establishing its importance within the life of the school. Consequently, religious education makes an outstanding contribution to pupils' academic achievement, spiritual development and understanding of the Catholic faith.

Collective worship

The quality and range of liturgy and prayer provided by the school.

Collective worship key judgement grade

Pupil outcomes

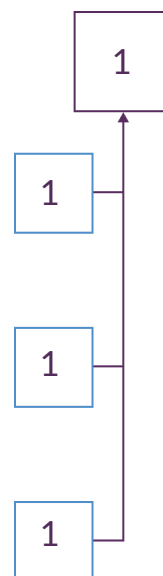
How well pupils participate in and respond to the school's collective worship

Provision

The quality of collective worship provided by the school

Leadership

How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for collective worship



Prayer and liturgy are central to the life of Our Lady of the Rosary and are deeply valued by pupils, staff and families. Pupils participate fully, actively and consciously in prayer and liturgy. They speak positively about the opportunities they are given and recognise the importance of these experiences in their lives. Through regular participation in a wide variety of prayer experiences, pupils develop confidence, reverence and understanding. They value celebrations linked to the liturgical year, including Mass, prayer services and events involving families. Pupils demonstrate an appreciation of different forms of prayer, including liturgical music, meditative prayer and the traditional prayers of the Church. They understand the significance of these experiences and readily make connections between prayer, scripture and their daily lives. Pupils work collaboratively to plan and lead prayer and liturgy and welcome opportunities to evaluate these experiences. Their reflections demonstrate maturity and a growing understanding of how prayer can influence attitudes, behaviour and relationships. Through these experiences, pupils deepen both their faith and their understanding of the Church's liturgical tradition.

Provision for prayer and liturgy is outstanding. Prayer and liturgy are embedded within the daily life of the school and are planned carefully across the year, week and day. Opportunities are closely linked to the liturgical calendar, parish events and pupils' lived experiences. This careful planning enables pupils to encounter Christ, deepen their relationship with God and participate fully in the liturgical life of the Church. Scripture lies at the heart of prayer and liturgy. Readings are selected thoughtfully and used effectively to help pupils reflect on their faith and its practical application. Staff demonstrate a deep commitment to prayer and liturgy

and serve as inspirational role models. Their support enables pupils to engage meaningfully and take increasing responsibility for planning and leading prayer and liturgy. Pupil leadership is a notable strength. Pupils value the responsibility they are given and participate enthusiastically in supporting the prayer life of the school. The physical environment further enhances provision. Prayer stations, classroom prayer areas, outdoor spaces and the sensory garden provide rich opportunities for prayer and reflection. These areas are used purposefully and contribute significantly to the distinctive Catholic character of the school.

Leadership of prayer and liturgy is highly effective and characterised by ambition, commitment and careful planning. Leaders have developed a comprehensive policy framework alongside a model for progression in prayer, ensuring that pupils develop their understanding, participation and leadership throughout their time in school. The liturgical year has been mapped carefully to include holy days of obligation, feast days and celebrations that reflect the distinctive identity of the school community. This systematic approach ensures that prayer and liturgy are relevant, engaging and firmly rooted in the traditions of the Church. Staff formation is a significant priority. Leaders provide well-planned professional development to build confidence and expertise in planning, leading and evaluating prayer and liturgy. As a result, staff contribute fully to the prayer life of the school and support pupils effectively in their participation and leadership. Leaders are passionate about the impact of prayer and liturgy on pupils and the wider community. Their vision has created a thriving culture of prayer in which faith is celebrated, nurtured and lived daily. Consequently, prayer and liturgy make an exceptional contribution to the spiritual life of the school and play a central role in fulfilling its Catholic mission.

Information about the school

Full name of school	Our Lady of the Rosary RC Primary School, a Voluntary Academy
School unique reference number (URN)	151364
School DfE Number (LAESTAB)	3583327
Full postal address of the school	Davyhulme Road, Davyhulme, Urmston, Manchester, M41 7DS
School phone number	0161 748 4626
Headteacher or Head of School	Ms Hannah Groves
Chair of Governors	Mrs Pauline Moore
School Website	www.ourladyrosary.co.uk
Trusteeship	Diocesan
Multi-academy trust or company (if applicable)	Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust
Phase	Primary
Type of school	Academy
Admissions policy	Non Selective
Age-range of pupils	3 - 11
Gender of pupils	Mixed
Date of last denominational inspection	28 November 2018
Previous denominational inspection grade	Outstanding

The Inspection Team

Sinead Colbeck

Lead

Emma Graves

Key to grade judgements

Grade	England	Wales
1	Outstanding	Excellent
2	Good	Good
3	Requires improvement	Adequate and requires improvement
4	Inadequate	Unsatisfactory and in need of urgent improvement